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United States
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Selected Speeches and News Releases

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IN THIS ISSUE:

News Releases—

USDA Protects 32 New Plant Varieties and Reissues One Certificate

U.S. to Provide Additional Food Aid to Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia

Madigan Appoints National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council

Madigan and Lujan Announce Formation of Broadcast Fee Advisory Panel

Increase in Export Forecast Should Help Economy, Madigan Says

Forest Service Submits Spotted Owl Management Plan to U.S. Court

Madigan Appoints Members to Alternative Agriculture Board

Maryland to Expand Electronic Benefits Program

These Finicky Youngsters Pick the Best Diet

Madigan Announces Regional Offices of Rural Development Administration

Directory of Firms Registered to Export Grain Available

Madigan Announces Dairy Initiatives

News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

USDA PROTECTS 32 NEW PLANT VARIETIES AND REISSUES ONE CERTIFICATE

WASHINGTON, March 5—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued certificates of protection to developers of 32 new varieties of seed-reproduced plants including garden bean, Kentucky bluegrass, lettuce, pea, soybean and tomato.

Kenneth H. Evans, with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said developers of the new varieties will have the exclusive right to reproduce, sell, import and export their products in the United States for 18 years. Certificates of protection are granted after a review of the breeders' records and claims that each new variety is novel, uniform and stable.

The following varieties have been issued certificates of protection:

- the Acclaim, Magnum, Legion, Mustang and Crest varieties of garden bean, developed by the Asgrow Seed Co., Kalamazoo, Mich.;
- the Duchess variety of garden bean, developed by the Rogers NK Seed Co., Boise, Idaho;
- the Fesca and Modus varieties of garden bean, developed by the Nunhems Seed Corp., Lewisville, Idaho;
- the Barsweet variety of Kentucky bluegrass, developed by Barenbrug Holland B.V., the Netherlands;
- the Ampellia variety of Kentucky bluegrass, developed by Cebeco Zaden B.V., the Netherlands;
- the Capri variety of lettuce, developed by the Asgrow Seed Co., Kalamazoo, Mich.;
- the Red Eye Cos variety of lettuce, developed by Genecorp Inc., Salinas, Calif.;
- the Renata variety of pea, developed by Cebeco Zaden B.V., the Netherlands;
- the A2543, A5979, A2872 and A7258 varieties of soybean, developed by the Asgrow Seed Co., Kalamazoo, Mich.;
- the Hayes variety of soybean, developed by the Ohio State University, Wooster, Ohio;
- the Deltapine 878 variety of soybean, developed by the Delta & Pine Land Co., Scott, Miss.;

- the S20-20 variety of soybean, developed by the Northrup King Co., Minneapolis, Minn.;
- the Hamilton and Jack varieties of soybean, developed by the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station, Urbana, Ill.;
- the 9191, 9241 and 9273 varieties of soybean, developed by Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., Johnston, Iowa;
- the Micro-Tom variety of tomato, developed by the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, Gainesville, Fla.;
- the Sun 6095 variety of tomato developed by Sunseeds, Hollister, Calif.; and
- the NC 8276, NC 84173, NC 1C, NC 2C and Mountain Gold varieties of tomato, developed by the North Carolina Agricultural Research Service, Raleigh, N.C.

The certificate of protection for the LH119 corn variety, owned by Holden's Foundation Seeds Inc., is being reissued at this time.

The certificates of protection for the Barsweet and Ampellia Kentucky bluegrass varieties, the Renata pea variety, and the Hayes, Hamilton and Jack soybean varieties are being issued to be sold by variety name only as a class of certified seed, and to conform to the number of generations specified by the owner.

AMS administers the plant variety protection program which provides marketing protection to developers of new and distinctive seed-reproduced plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.

Rebecca Unkenholz (202) 720-8998

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U.S. TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FOOD AID TO LITHUANIA, ESTONIA AND LATVIA

WASHINGTON, March 5—The United States will provide an additional \$5 million of food aid each to Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan announced today.

“These agreements will be another important step in helping the countries of the Baltic region meet their needs for both food and animal feed,” Madigan said. “With agreements such as these, the United States shows its continued commitment as these countries make the difficult transition to market economies. In addition, we hope to establish a strong U.S. agricultural presence in these three markets.”

In making today's announcement, Madigan was joined by Victor Nakas, chief of staff of the embassy of Lithuania, Ojars Kalmins, minister counselor of the embassy of Latvia, and Mr. Kari of the embassy of Estonia.

Today's action follows Vice President Dan Quayle's trip to the Baltic region earlier this year, and recent U.S. donations of 100,000 metric tons of corn to each of the countries.

The aid will be provided under the Public Law 480, Title I—the Food for Peace Program. U.S. Department of Agriculture officials will meet in the near future with representatives of the three countries to work out operational details, including specific commodities to be donated.

For more information contact Lynne Reich or Casey Bean at (202) 720-5319.

Rebecca Broeking (202) 720-3448

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MADIGAN APPOINTS NATIONAL URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, March 5—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced the appointment of 15 members to the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council.

The council will advise the secretary on development of a national urban and community forestry action plan, evaluate the action plan's implementation, and develop criteria for a national challenge costshare program. The council was established under the provisions of the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance section of the 1990 Farm Bill.

"This council will serve as a board of directors to advise me on how the U.S. Department of Agriculture can best meet the forestry needs of the nation's 40,000 cities and communities, and the areas that need emphasis," Madigan said.

The advisory council members were selected from a cross-section of organizations and individuals concerned with forestry in the urban and community setting. Madigan appointed William Kruidenier of the International Society of Arboriculture, Urbana, Ill., to chair the council.

Other members are: John Rosenow, National Arbor Day Foundation, Lincoln, Neb.; Donald Willeke, American Forestry Association, Minneapolis, Minn.; Bernie Swift, Montana State Senator, Hamilton,

Mont.; Paul Cole, Merriam Tree Board, Merriam, Kan.; Marcia Bansley, Trees Atlanta, Atlanta, Ga.; David Shaw, Monmouth County Shade Tree Commission, Freehold, N.J.; Preston Cole, City Forester, Milwaukee, Wis.; Rick Henkel, Princeton Nurseries, Princeton, N.J.; Claire Bennett, Claire Bennett Associates, Inc., Indianapolis, Ind.; Donald Ham, Department of Forestry, Clemson University, Clemson, S.C.; Stephen Kellert, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.; James Roberts, State of Maryland, Annapolis, Md.; Mitch Geasler, USDA Extension Service, Washington, D.C.; and Allan J. West, USDA Forest Service, Washington, D.C.

The Urban and Community Forest Assistance program, administered by USDA's Forest Service and the State Foresters, provides information and technical assistance to units of local governments, volunteer groups, and others to encourage the planting, protecting, and maintaining of trees in cities and communities nationwide.

Gordon Meyer (202) 205-1061

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MADIGAN AND LUJAN ANNOUNCE FORMATION OF BROADCAST FEE ADVISORY PANEL

WASHINGTON, March 5—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan and Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan today announced their intention to form an advisory committee that will examine rental fees charged private radio and television broadcasters for use of federal lands.

The nine-member panel, which is formally called the Radio and Television Broadcast Use Fee Advisory Committee, will advise the secretaries on appropriate methods of determining fair market value for broadcast use of public lands. Such use involves placement of broadcast antennae on lands managed by USDA's Forest Service and USDI's Bureau of Land Management.

The committee will also examine whether rental fees should be waived or reduced for those broadcasters who serve the public convenience, interest and necessity, as required for licensing under the Federal Communications Act of 1934. There will be no change in status for public broadcasting stations, for which rental fees are waived.

Madigan said the advisory committee will be broad-based and represent various interests affected by the rental fees.

"The federal government should get a fair market return for broadcasters' use of public lands," Madigan said. "The question is: What is fair? The advisory committee will help the Forest Service, BLM, and the Congress in finding the answer to that question."

Lujan said, "I am confident that the advisory committee report will help us resolve the issue in a way that is fair to both the public and broadcasters."

Congress suggested that the Forest Service and BLM establish the advisory committee when it passed the fiscal 1992 Interior Department appropriations bill last November.

Madigan and Lujan will appoint the nine members of the advisory committee.

Five members will each represent one of the five following groups: radio and television broadcasters authorized to use Forest Service or BLM lands; radio and television broadcasters leasing private lands for their primary broadcast facilities; radio and television translators; state, county and local government; and managers of communication sites.

The other four members will be: an expert in methodologies for determining market values; a citizen representing the public-at-large; a Forest Service representative; and a BLM representative.

Madigan and Lujan invited individuals and relevant interest groups to recommend candidates for the advisory committee. Nominations should describe and document the proposed member's qualifications for service on the committee and specify which of the above groups the nominee will represent.

Nominations should be submitted by March 20 to: Cy Jamison, Director, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

Members will serve without compensation. They will be reimbursed for travel and other expenses incurred in carrying out the duties of their positions.

The committee will meet at least twice. Meetings will be announced in the Federal Register at least 15 days before each meeting. Meetings will be open to the public.

Forest Service and BLM jointly announced the committee's intended formation in a public notice appearing today in the Federal Register.

Gordon Meyer (202) 205-1061 (FS)
Tom Gorey (202) 208-5717 (BLM)

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INCREASE IN EXPORT FORECAST SHOULD HELP ECONOMY, MADIGAN SAYS

WASHINGTON, March 5—The U.S. Department of Agriculture last week raised its forecast of agricultural exports for fiscal 1992 to \$40 billion, up \$1 billion from earlier fiscal year 1992 forecasts and up \$2.5 billion over the fiscal 1991 level.

“This increase is good news for U.S. agriculture and the U.S. economy,” Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan said. “USDA studies have shown that every dollar received from agricultural exports stimulates another \$1.59 in supporting activities to produce those exports and each \$1 billion gain in exports provides for another 27,000 jobs.”

USDA also forecast an increase in export volume to 134 million tons, about 5 million tons over 1991.

Increases will be almost across-the-board, said Madigan. “The three components of agricultural trade—bulk commodities, intermediate and consumer-ready products—all will show increases this year,” he said.

On the bulk side, exports of wheat and wheat flour are expected to rise 41 percent. In the intermediate category, soybean oil exports should rise 56 percent. In the consumer-ready category, exports of dairy products are expected to increase 63 percent over last year.

Agricultural imports are estimated to be \$22 million in fiscal 1992. “With the outlook for higher exports and lower imports this year,” Madigan said, “the U.S. agricultural trade surplus will be at its highest level in four years—\$18 billion.”

“Fiscal 1992 will mark the 33rd consecutive year of an agricultural trade surplus,” said Madigan. “The historic productivity of our farmers allows U.S. agriculture to lead the way in the U.S. trade picture.”

Roger Runningen (202) 720-4163
Sally Klusaritz (202) 720-3448

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FOREST SERVICE SUBMITS SPOTTED OWL MANAGEMENT PLAN TO U.S. COURT

WASHINGTON, March 5—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service today submitted its plan for managing the habitat of the northern spotted owl on National Forest lands in California, Oregon and Washington to the U.S. District Court in Seattle, Wash.

Submission of the plan to the court meets the March 5 deadline imposed by U.S. District Judge William Dwyer for the Forest Service to have in effect revised standards and guidelines to ensure the northern spotted owl's viability on national forest lands.

An environmental impact statement and a written record of decision on the management plan were included in the documents submitted.

Five different management options were considered by the secretary of agriculture in the environmental impact statement. The plan chosen is based on the strategy proposed by the federal Interagency Scientific Committee in its 1990 report "A Conservation Strategy for the Northern Spotted Owl."

The plan designates 5.9 million acres of national forest land and designated wilderness as Habitat Conservation Areas to be managed primarily as northern spotted owl habitat.

The plan also provides an opportunity to make some timber sales within the next few months to help maintain and support jobs and communities.

"This plan was considered the most appropriate after all factors were weighed," said James Moseley, assistant secretary of agriculture for natural resources and the environment. "We can maintain viable populations of the spotted owl while allowing some timber to be harvested to support the economy of communities dependent on the National Forests. The plan can be adjusted over time to reflect actual experience and new information."

The environmental impact statement and decision comply with all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act and the National Forest Management Act, Moseley said.

All timber sales under the management plan will be subject to compliance with the standards and guidelines as outlined in the plan. The plan also provides for an integrated inventory, monitoring and research program regarding northern spotted owl habitat and viability.

Nancy Terry (202) 205-1772

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MADIGAN APPOINTS MEMBERS TO ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURE BOARD

WASHINGTON, March 6—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced appointments to the initial Alternative Agriculture Research and Commercialization (AARC) Board.

The board was designated by Congress under the 1990 Farm Bill to establish policy, implement programs and direct the activities of an independent center within USDA created to expand industrial uses of farm and forest products. The board will report directly to the secretary.

At the department's December Outlook Conference, Madigan announced his new uses initiative. Today he called the center and its board a key component in this initiative.

"Installing this board and establishing the AARC Center will boost our efforts to move research out of the laboratory and into the marketplace," Madigan said.

One of the board's first duties will be to select an executive director for the center. Staff for the center will be assembled from current USDA employees.

Madigan's nine appointees represent geographic locations; crop, livestock and forestry sectors; and several professional categories. Four of the members must come from nominees presented by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the National Science Foundation. The board members are:

Scientific: Roger Porter, polymer chemist, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, with an adjunct appointment at the University of Mississippi, Hattiesburg, and materials representative, technology advisory council, Chrysler Corporation, Detroit, Mich.

Producer/Processor: Lee Reeve, farmer and processor of corn into ethanol, Garden City, Kan.

Commercial: Phillip Gross, president, Novon Division, Warner-Lambert, Inc., Morris Plains, N.J.; and John Fujii, director of manufacturing technology, James River Corporation, Camas, Wash.

Applied research, from National Science Foundation nominees: Ralph Hardy, president, Boyce Thompson Institute, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.; and Jerry Caulder, president, Mycogen Corporation, San Diego, Calif.

Financial/Managerial, from Commerce Department nominees: Martin Andreas, vice president of marketing, Archer Daniels Midland, Decatur,

Ill.; and Delwin Schneider, president and CEO, CILCORP Ventures, Peoria, Ill.

USDA: Mark Dungan, executive assistant to the secretary of agriculture.

Cameron Bruenmier (202) 720-6307

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MARYLAND TO EXPAND ELECTRONIC BENEFITS PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, March 6—More than 9,000 Montgomery County food stamp households will be added March 9 to Maryland's Independence Card program, allowing them to use plastic cards to purchase their groceries, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said today.

The Montgomery County action comes as Maryland plans to take the electronic benefits transfer (EBT) project statewide by year-end.

"We're pleased it's working so well for them," said Steve Abrams, USDA's deputy assistant secretary for food and consumer services. "Our experience with EBT so far has been that food stamp users like it, retailers like it, bankers like it and the federal government likes it. Apparently the state government in Maryland likes it too."

EBT began operating as a pilot project in Baltimore, November 1989. Cecil County is the only other county currently participating.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service is also operating pilot food stamp EBT projects in Pennsylvania, New Mexico, Minnesota and Ohio; however, Maryland is the first state planning to expand statewide.

The system is expected to contribute to lower operating costs and reduced fraud in the Food Stamp Program. "Perhaps most importantly, EBT means no one is waiting by the mail box for their benefits," Abrams said.

Under an EBT system, people apply for food stamps as they always have at their local food stamp office. Once their eligibility is determined, an account is established for their benefits. The plastic card and a personal identification number (PIN) are issued, and are used at the grocery store to debit the benefit account by the amount of the grocery purchase.

"The electronic system totals the amount of eligible items purchased. The grocery checker runs the plastic card through the electronic reader. The customer enters the PIN, and the account is debited for the amount,"

Abrams said. "No money and no food stamps change hands, and all the accounting is done automatically."

The Maryland project was the first to include other benefits programs besides food stamps in its EBT system. Benefits for the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program and the Child Support Enforcement Program can also be accessed with the Independence card.

The Maryland EBT program is supported by USDA, which oversees the nationwide Food Stamp Program, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The federal agencies are contributing half the cost of the project.

Phil Shanholtzer (703) 305-2313

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THESE FINICKY YOUNGSTERS PICK THE BEST DIET

WASHINGTON—Children aren't the only finicky eaters. U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers have discovered that calves are more selective than mature cattle when it comes to choosing what to eat.

"The big difference, though, is that calves pick the more nutritious diet compared to their older generation. Many children tend to head for the cookie jar," said Robert E. Short, animal physiologist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

Short and colleagues found that calves took in higher protein and less nondigestible fiber in studies at the Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Station, Miles City, Mont. The studies tracked a total of 32 crossbred calves during two spring-to-fall grazing seasons.

"The calves selectively picked grasses and other small plants that contained about one-third more crude protein and up to 14 percent less nondigestible fiber, compared to the diets of mature cattle," said Short.

"The research has proven that we can't use just mature livestock to measure the nutrition available from plants on rangeland," he said. "We need to learn more about the dietary needs of livestock, both young and old, so we can feed them supplements when range plants aren't providing enough nutrients."

The diet research, he said, will help ranchers make more efficient use of rangelands—essential to a continuous supply of red meat at reasonable prices.

Short doesn't know why younger animals ended up with the better diet.

It could be, he said, that their smaller mouths allow them to zero in on specific plants and plant parts, or perhaps they intuitively know what's best for them. Or, he added, "it could be that they have more sensitive taste buds."

The diet difference disappeared in the fall when range plants neared maturity and calves got older, he noted.

Dennis Senft (510) 559-6068

March 9, 1992

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MADIGAN ANNOUNCES REGIONAL OFFICES OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, March 9—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced plans to establish seven regional offices of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Administration.

"These offices will assist rural areas and small towns throughout the nation in economic and infrastructure development," Madigan said.

The new RDA office locations and the regions they will administer are: Klamath Falls, Ore., Western Region; Levelland, Texas, Southwest Region; St. Joseph, Mo., North Central Region; Vicksburg, Miss., Delta Region; Aiken, S.C., Southeast Region; Huntington, W. Va., Mideast Region; and Sayre, Pa., Northeast Region.

The offices are expected to become fully operational by October.

The RDA, mandated by the 1990 Farm Bill, was created by Madigan in December 1991. The agency is comprised of community and business development offices, programs and functions formerly with USDA's Farmer's Home Administration.

Transferred activities include water and waste loan and grant programs, community facilities loan and loan guarantee programs, the business and industry loan guarantee program, intermediary relending program, industrial development grant program and several other smaller programs.

"This new regional-level organization will place decisionmaking closer to the communities these decisions will affect," Madigan said.

Madigan also said the regional offices will oversee the original processing on many RDA loan and grant programs. "This will end much

duplication in administration of these functions, and will result in a more efficient program delivery system," he said.

Regional RDA offices will also serve as direct liaisons with state governments and State Rural Development Councils, Madigan said. On Feb. 19, Madigan announced formation of RDCs in 34 states and two U.S. territories, in addition to councils already in place in eight other states on a pilot basis.

"These state-level rural development councils are being formed under President Bush's Initiative on Rural America to coordinate economic development partnership between federal, state and local governments and private industry..," Madigan said. "Establishment of the new regional RDA offices puts in place another component of this partnership, which promises more effective overall administration of federal assistance to rural communities."

Thom Rubel (202) 720-5371

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DIRECTORY OF FIRMS REGISTERED TO EXPORT GRAIN AVAILABLE

WASHINGTON, March 9—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service today issued the "Directory of Firms Registered to Export Grain" for calendar 1992.

Published annually, the directory lists grain elevators, terminals, and other businesses and individuals that buy, handle, weigh, or transport grain for sale in foreign commerce. The U.S. Grain Standards Act requires all such firms that annually ship more than 15,000 metric tons to register with FGIS.

According to FGIS Administrator John C. Foltz, 83 firms registered to export grain for calendar year 1992, compared to 86 in 1991.

Foltz noted that this year's directory is the first FGIS publication printed with soybean-based ink on recycled paper.

Copies of the directory are available from Joanne Peterson, FGIS, (202) 720-4300.

Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091

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MADIGAN ANNOUNCES DAIRY INITIATIVES

LINCOLN, Ill., March 11—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced he is taking six administrative steps to bolster farm milk prices.

“The Administration shares the dairy industry’s goal of avoiding unnecessary price instability,” Madigan said. “We are today renewing the administrative actions which lent strength to milk prices last year.

“Continuing these initiatives should lead to a better balance between the supply and demand for milk and dairy products this year, and therefore better farm milk prices.”

Madigan said the U.S. Department of Agriculture will immediately take the following steps:

- Suspend the resale of Commodity Credit Corporation cheese and nonfat dry milk (NDM) stocks so that government inventory is isolated from the market.

- Offer to make advance purchases of cheese for the school lunch and other domestic feeding programs.

- Make dairy products fully available for export credit or food aid donation programs.

- Include cheddar cheese as an eligible export commodity under the Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP).

- Facilitate the use of DEIP by providing risk protection to private exporters who may be harmed by unpredictable future actions of the CCC to adjust the relative price support between butter and NDM.

- Include NDM, when available, as an eligible product for donation to eligible countries under Section 416 of the Agricultural Act of 1949.

“These initiatives will help stabilize dairy markets and avoid needlessly low prices during the spring flush period,” Madigan said. “We are now analyzing additional administrative steps that could be taken to help provide more stable prices.”

Roger Runningen (202) 720-4623

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